

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ANKARA 02761 131447Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 /033 W
-----131536Z 055128 /47

R 131311Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7135
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 2761

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, TU
SUBJECT: TURK-IS ROLE IN POLITICS

REF: ANKARA 9687

1. SUMMARY. CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS (TURK-IS) HELD APRIL 11-12 IN ANKARA SPECIAL MEETING OF COMBINED EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT BOARDS IN EFFORT REACH DECISION ON WHICH POLITICAL PARTY TURK-IS SHOULD SUPPORT. AS THERE WAS CLEARLY NO POSSIBILITY OF REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF ONE POSITION, FURTHER DELIBERATION WAS POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL 21. MEANWHILE CERTAIN QUESTIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) AND THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP) WHICH IN EFFECT CONVEY THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH TURK-IS WOULD SUPPORT A POLITICAL PARTY. IF APRIL 21 MEETING FAILS TO REACH DECISION, TURK-IS WILL CALL EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS WITHIN 15 DAYS.
END SUMMARY.

2. FACT THAT THIS MEETING OF TURK-IS BOARDS FAILED TO PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULT, CAME AS NO SURPRISE. MEETING AFTER MEETING HAS BEEN HELD DURING PAST YEAR AT WHICH TURK-IS ROLE IN POLITICS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ANKARA 02761 131447Z

HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY DEBATED, BUT NO DECISION POSSIBLE UNDER TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY RULE. MANAGEMENT BOARD HAS 36 MEMBERS, EXECUTIVE BOARD 5. LINE UP ON APRIL 12 SAID TO BE 19 IN FAVOR OF RPP, 16 FOR TURK-IS TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT, 1 ADVOCATING TURK-IS ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS OWN PARTY, 3 ABSTENTIONS (INCLUDING TURK-IS PRESIDENT HALIL TUNC) AND 1 ABSENT.

3. RPP SUPPORTERS, SELF-STYLED SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, HAVE LONG WORKED FOR AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN TURK-IS AND RPP. INCLUDED IN THIS GROUP ARE LEADERS FROM THE IMPORTANT MINE WORKERS' UNION, HIGHWAY WORKERS' UNION, DEFENSE INDUSTRIES UNION, PETROLEUM WORKERS' UNION AND RAILWAY WORKERS' UNION. THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIES UNION (HARB-IS) HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED ITS INDEPENDENT ENDORSEMENT OF THE RPP FOR COMING GENERAL ELECTIONS AND HAS SUGGESTED BY ITS EXAMPLE THAT EACH UNION SHOULD BE LEFT FREE TO CHOOSE FOR ITSELF.

4. GROUP URGING THAT TURK-IS REMAIN INDEPENDENT IS IN FACT COMPRISED OF JP SUPPORTERS. THREE OF THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ARE IN THIS GROUP, INCLUDING TURK-IS SECRETARY GENERAL SADIK SIDE. ALSO LEADERS OF THE TEXTILE WORKERS' UNION, ENERGY WORKERS' UNION, HEALTH WORKERS' UNION, METAL WORKERS' UNION AND AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY WORKERS' UNION ARE JP FOLLOWERS. THE LEADERS OF THE FOOD AND DRINK WORKERS' UNION DIVIDED, ONE SUPPORTING JP, WHILE THE OTHER, UNION PRESIDENT IBRAHIM DENIZCILER ADVOCATED THAT TURK-IS SHOULD FOUND ITS OWN POLITICAL PARTY.

5. THE ARRAY ON EACH SIDE IS FORMIDABLE, AND THE DANGERS OF A SPLIT ARE REAL ALTHOUGH DISCOUNTED BY BOTH GROUPS. TUNC CONTINUES TO AVOID TAKING A POSITION, ALTHOUGH HE REPORTEDLY FAVORS THE RPP, PROVIDING RPP BREAKS ITS TIES WITH DISK (TURKISH REVOLUTINARY/REFORMIST TRADE UNIONS.)

6. QUESTIONS PUT TO RPP AND JP AS PUBLISHED IN PRESS READ LIKE LIST OF DEMANDS: (A) ACCEPTANCE OF TURK-IS PRINCIPLES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ANKARA 02761 131447Z

(B) REPRESENTATION AT 20 PERCENT LEVEL OF TRADE UNIONISTS IN PARTY'S POLICY BOARDS, (C) SUPPORT FOR WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONISTS AS CANDIDATES IN GENERAL ELECTIONS (NO NUMBER MENTIONED), (C) TURK-IS REPRESENTATION DURING PREPARATION OF BILLS AND DECREE-LAWS AND OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS WHEN THESE ARE RELATED TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES, (E) TURK-IS REPRESENTATION ON BOARDS OF STATE CORPORATION, (F) TURK-IS REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS, AND (G) NO RELATIONS BY POLITICAL PARTY WITH ANY OTHER LABOR CONFEDERATION AND, WHERE SUCH EXIST, PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT RELATIONS HAVE CASSED (A CLEAR REFERENCE TO RPP/DISK ALLIANCE).

7. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT RPP OR JP ANSWERS WILL ALTER TURK-IS' DILEMMA. THE PRICE TO PAY BY EITHER POLITICAL PARTY IS VERY HIGH, AND TURK-IS IN ITS PRESENT DIVIDED POSITION COULD NOT DELIVER SOLID SUPPORT TO EITHER PARTY. RPP HAS ALREADY PROMISED A NUMBER OF THESE POINTS, BUT IT IS PROBABLY TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THE RPP TO PROVIDE THE DEGREE OF REPRESENTATION ASKED AND TO SEVER ITS RELATIONS WITH DISK.

THE JP IS KNOWN TO FAVOR THAT TURK-IS REMAIN ABOVE PARTY POLITICS AND MAY CONCLUDE THAT SUCH A SIZEABLE PARTICIPATION OF TURK-IS WITHIN ITS PARTY COUNCILS WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH ITS EXISTING STRUCTURE.

8. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THIS MOVE WILL BE UNPRODUCTIVE, THAT THE APRIL 21 TURK-IS MEETING WILL STILL SHOW A STALEMATE AND THAT TURK-IS WILL THEN CALL AN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS. WITH THE TURN OUT OF DELEGATES AT SUCH A CONGRESS, THE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENT WITHIN TURK-IS WILL BE ENLARGED AND MAY BE EXPECTED TO HALT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AS HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST. IN THAT EVENT, THE HARB-IS EXAMPLE OF INDEPENDENT DECISION BY AN INDIVIDUAL UNION MAY BE THE ONLY COMMON GROUND. THE OUTCOME IN ANY CASE IS NOT LIKELY TO CHANGE MANY VOTES OR TO HAVE MUCH BEARING ON THE ELECTIONS.
MACOMBER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, EXECUTIVE BRANCH, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA02761
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770128-0419
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770463/aaaaccsh.tel
Line Count: 131
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 596935a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 9687
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2826385
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURK-IS ROLE IN POLITICS
TAGS: ELAB, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/596935a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009